

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The abstract is not amended, as it contains 146 words in its present form, which is below the 150 word limit. A copy of the abstract as pending is provided below for reference:

An improved computerized method and system for the payment of patent and trademark fees is disclosed. The patent or trademark fee for a client of a firm is charged against an account maintained by an organization separate from the firm. A charge issued at a workstation at the firm is delivered to a patent or patent and trademark agency, or a foreign associate firm, where it is cashed against an account maintained by the separate organization. The firm bills the client for the fee, along with a service charge, while the separate organization bills the firm for the fee and the service charge. Payment from the client to the firm for the fee and service charge is then sent to the separate organization to cover the firm's bill from the separate organization.

Recirculating retainers, pre-billing, and other aspects of methods and systems are also disclosed herein.